UAV crash near Bhatinda, Punjab

3902. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) used as spy plane crashed near Bhatinda in Punjab in March, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has enquired into the incident; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) There was no Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) crash near Bhatinda in Punjab in March, 2008. However, there was a crash of UAV at Awantipur airfield in March, 2008. All such incidents are investigated by a Court of Inquiry and remedial action taken thereon.

Separate Pay Commission for Armed Forces

3903. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chiefs of Staff Committee have submitted Memorandum for a separate pay commission for armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Chiefs of Staff Committee have not submitted a Memorandum for a separate Pay Commission for the Armed Forces.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Timely construction of strategic roads in border areas

†3904. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of roads running behind their time frame out of 171 roads of strategic importance being constructed in border areas;

(b) the reasons for non-allotment of sufficient budget for the roads of strategic importance; and

(c) the efforts undertaken to ensure completion of all roads within the schedule time and the outcome thereof so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) Only 15 (Fifteen) roads are running behind schedule out of 171 roads of strategic importance being constructed in border areas.

(b) There is adequate budget allocation for the construction of roads of strategic importance as per the organizational capacity and time-frame.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.